Department of State

TELEGRAM

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-06 H-02 INR-06 L-03 NSAE-00
NSC-10 P-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-14 USIA-12 NIC-01 ACDA-10
IO-11 UPW-01 RSP-01 /106 W
029431

R 011835Z OCT 71
FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0634
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
CINCPAC
AMCONSUL DANANG
USDEL FRANCE
AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY Jean Izzberg DATE 1/21/82
RDS☐or XDS☐EXT. DATE
TS AUTH. REASON(S)
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐
DECLASSIFIED☑ RELEASABLE☑
RELEASE DENIED☐
PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 15775

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

SUBJ: SIGNIFICANT POLITICAL SUPPORT FOR PRESIDEN THIEU

1. SUMMARY. AT A TIME WHEN THE OPPOSITION IS MONOPOLIZING THE HEADLINES, IT MAY BE USEFUL TO NOTE THAT PRESIDENT THIEU HAS THE SUPPORT OF SOME SIGNIFICANT GROUPS IN HIS DETERMINATION TO PROCEED WITH THE ELECTION - NOTABLY THE PROGRESSIVE NATIONALIST MOVEMENT, THE WORKER-FARMER PARTY, AND MAJOR FACTIONS OF THE ETHNIC CAMBODIANS, AND THE HOA HAO. THEIR LOYALTY MAY BE REWARDED. END SUMMARY.

2. THE PROGRESSIVE NATIONALIST MOVEMENT (PNM) HEADED BY PROFESSOR NGUYEN VAN BONG HAS MADE NO PUBLIC ENDORSEMENT BUT IN A RECENT SERIES OF EDITORIALS IN THE PNM DAILY CAP TIEN PNM SECGEN NGUYEN NGOC HUY (2) EVALUATED THE ALTERNATIVES TO HOLDING THE ELECTION AS SCHEDULED AND CONCLUDED THE BEST COURSE IS TO GO AHEAD. THIS CONCLUSION WAS REACHED WITH THE PROVISO THAT THIEU SHOULD MAKE CABINET CHANGES AND ADOPT NEW POLICIES AFTER HE IS REELECTED. PNM LEADERS HAVE BEEN MAKING

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THESE SAME POINTS IN PRIVATE, AND OCT 1 HUY TOLD US THE PARTY MEMBERS HAVE BEEN INSTRUCTED TO ENCOURAGE A LARGE TURNOUT ON OCT 3, ALLAOUGH THEY ARE NOT BEING TOLD HOW TO VOTE.

3. TRAN DUOC BUU, CHAIRMAN OF THE WORKER-FARMER PARTY, MADE A PUBLIC STATEMENT OCT 1 (REPORTED SEPARATELY) WHICH FAVORED GOING AHEAD WITH THE ELECTION.

4. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, ONE OF THE TWO FACTIONS INTO WHICH ETHNIC CAMBODIANS ARE DIVIDED IN SVN, THE THERAVADA NIKAY BUDDHIST ASSOCIATION, HELD A MEETING OF REPRESENTATIVES OF EIGHT PROVINCES IN BA XUYEN SEPT 22 AND 23 AND DECIDED TO TAKE PART "ENERGETICALLY" IN THE ELECTIONS. THIS GROUP IS MODERATE AND PRO-GOVERNMENT, AND WE ASSUME THE PRESS REPORTS ARE ACCURATE. (THE OTHER FACTION, THE THEREVADA BUDDHIST ASSOCIATION HEADED BY KIM SANG, IS CALLING FOR A BOYCOTT OF THE ELECTIONS BECAUSE OF PRESIDENT THIEU'S REFUSAL TO PROMOTE A LAW TO GRANT OFFICIAL ETHNIC MINORITY STATUS TO CAMBODIANS.)

5. PRESS REPORTS ALSO INDICATE THE LARGER OF THE TWO FACTIONS OF THE HOA HAO BUDDHISTS, THE ONE HEADED BY LUONG TRONG TUONG, RECENTLY HELD A MEETING OF LOCAL REPRESENTATIVES IN HOA HAO VILLAGE, CHAU DOC PROVINCE, A COMMUNIQUE WAS ISSUED CRITICIZING THOSE WHO CAUSE DISORDERS BENEFICIAL ONLY TO THE COMMUNISTS, AND SUPPORTING THE THIEU-HUONG SLATE. TUONG URGED A HEAVY TURNOUT ON ELECTION DAY.

6. COMMENT: IN TERMS OF LOWER HOUSE SEATS, THE PNM- [illegible] 28, THE WFP 17, THE HOA HAO TUONG FACTION ABOUT [illegible] THE MODERATE CAMBODIANS 6. AFTER THE ELECTION ADDITIONAL USUALLY PRO-GOVERNMENT PARTIES, SUCH AS THE CATHOLIC-BASED NHAN XA AND THE REVOLUTIONARY DAI VIET PARTY, WILL PROBABLY COME AROUND TO COOPERATION WITH THIEU. IT WILL BE INTERESTING TO SEE HOW THE INTERACTION DEVELOPS BETWEEN THE EXECUTIVE AND THE PARTIES WHICH ARE NOW SUPPORTING THIEU IN A TIME OF DIFFICULTY, IN PARTICULAR WITH REGARD TO ANY CABINET CHANGES WHICH MAY TAKE PLACE. THE PRESIDENT HAS SHOWN BEFORE THAT HE PLACES A HIGH VALUE ON

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LOYALTY, AND SUPPORT OF HIM AT THIS DIFFICULT MOMENT MAY VERY WELL DRAW REWARD.
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